

# THEATER OFFERINGS AND STAGE CHAT

## Behind the Footlights

Howard Kyle has opened his starring tour in "Her American Prince," a new play by Carl Herbert Fast.

Emily Dodd, one of the members of Robert Mantell's company, who appeared in the role of Lady Macbeth, in this city, after a single rehearsal and only upon a few hours' notice, has been forced to sever her connection with the company for the season. The nervous strain was more than she could undergo. Miss Dodd took Mrs. Mantell's role when the latter became suddenly ill.

Nettie Whelan has, by permission of the court, become Adele Ritchie, Jr., the first case on record where a woman has been permitted by law to affix "junior." The change was made in order that Miss Whelan might inherit the fortune of her aunt and godmother, Adele Ritchie, "senior."

Hattie Williams will appear in the leading role of "The Little Cherub," at the Criterion, in New York, during August. The play is an English musical comedy.

From January until Easter of next year, Sir Charles Wyndham and his English company will make a tour of America.

Enrico Caruso has been the recipient of a bronze bust of himself. The gift comes from the M. H. Singing Society of American Ladies, and was tendered to him upon his return from San Francisco.

The lease for the Lew Fields' Theater in New York has been signed. James K. Hackett will pay \$35,000 a year for the playhouse, and the term is for twelve years.

Robert Lorraine resumes his run of "Man and Superman" at the Hudson Theater in New York on Monday night. Mr. Lorraine made the hit of his career in this Shaw play earlier in the season, and his metropolitan engagement was only terminated by previous arrangements for the road tour.

The death of William F. Owen, one of the most noted of the old Shakespearean comedians, brought genuine sorrow to all who knew the actor. Mr. Owen died in a private hospital in New York as a result of an acute attack of Bright's disease. He was a member of Mrs. Fiske's company at the time. His stage career embraced a large number of roles. He played the first grave digger in "Hamlet," and the first witch in "Macbeth" in Edwin Booth's company; was Sir Toby Belch, Touchstone, and Peter in Modjeska's company, and appeared in Washington this season with

Henrietta Crossman's company in "As You Like It."

Florence Roberts, who made her debut on Broadway late in the season in "The Strength of the Weak," closed her engagement at the Liberty last night. She will open in New York in the fall in a new play.

It is rumored that Arnold Daly will shortly appear in "Hamlet," an ambition which he has long cherished.

J. Edward Copps, a Yale student, denies that he was recently married to Marie Hammett, of "The Social Whirl" company. According to a New York paper Miss Hammett announced her marriage to Copps, but the latter denies it absolutely.

"Brown of Harvard" will see its 100th performance next Tuesday night. Henry Woodruff has found a big success in the play which promises to run well into the summer season.

Marie Dressler says she will leave the Joe Weber company before the end of this month to join George Edwards' London company. Miss Dressler is said to be under a three year contract with Weber and it is intimated that the latter will not hear of any premature severing of professional bonds.

It is said that Ethel Barrymore will not marry Capt. Harry Graham, the young English officer to whom her engagement was announced some months ago. Miss Barrymore is said to have told her intimate friends that her engagement to the young Englishman has been broken.

Channing Pollock, author of several of the dramatic successes of the past season and a former Washington newspaper man, will take his first long vacation this season in years. He will leave his office this week to be away until September.

George Ade has returned after spending several weeks in Egypt. He will go to his Indiana farm within the next few days to begin his summer work. The public may look for a new Ade play on Egyptian lines before many months have passed.

Olga Netherese will sail for Paris the last of this month. Miss Netherese has bought a new play by L. K. Clements, of Boston, which she will produce next season.

Paul Kester has again been dealing in real estate and disposing of it. He has sold his fine English estate in Westmoreland, England, to a Londoner. Several years ago Mr. Kester and his brother bought the Nelly Custis place near Mt. Vernon for something like \$10,000 and several months ago sold the place for \$25,000.

## Stage Gossip From Gotham

By JAMES GRANT THURSTON.

NEW YORK, May 12.—Coney Island is in full blast, the trees are in full foliage, straw hats and peek-a-boo waists are occasionally seen on the street, the lilac man is doing business, and the soda fountains are increasing their ice orders. All these are unfailing indications that the time of rest is coming for the actor people, and that the season of 1905-06 is soon to pass into history.

It has been a good season for all those attractions which have merited success. New York is willing to pay and to keep on paying to be amused, but the amusement must be to its taste. Of the season's successes "The Music Master," "Peter Pan," "The Girl of the Golden West," and "The Squaw Man" have been easily the leaders; but a score of other plays have brought fame and fortune to authors, players, and managers, and when the season of 1906-07 opens they still will be found doing business to the capacity of the houses.

The roof gardens are beginning to be popular, and with these and the usual number of houses which run on the year-around schedule the visitor who has discovered New York to be the very best of all summer resorts will not suffer for lack of amusement. And then there is the ever new Coney, which will soon be in full blast. There are those who have traveled much and are willing to take oath that the old Coney Island has not a match the world round, but this year the great resort of the people will be as far ahead of last year as the Capitol at Washington is ahead of the City of New York. About the only thing that will remain the same from Sea Gate to Oriental Point will be the surf and the bathing suits, the frankfurters and the high-collared beer glasses.

There were two new productions along Broadway this week. Arnold Daly gave a new one-act curtain raiser by Bernard Shaw at the Lyric, entitled, "How He Lied to Her Husband." It is typically Bernard Shaw, which is saying all that is necessary. Joe Weber is responsible for the other novelty. It is also typical, but of Weber. "The Jays" it is called, and it is a burlesque of the Mystic Fays, who are headliners in vaudeville.

Wilton Lackaye as Sengali, at the Academy, has been so long away from New York as to be almost new. He gives his usual finished artistic portrayal of Du Maurier's remarkable character.

There is a mutual feeling between Broadway and De Wolf Hopper. It would be harder to say which is gladder to see the other. His engagement which began Monday at the Majestic is the third trial of "Happyland" on the great white way this season. Each engagement has been more successful than the preceding one.

Plans are already being laid for next season. The most interesting event planned for the fall is the American tour of Henry B. Irving, son of the great Sir Henry. As a rule the sons of great actors are overshadowed by the fame of their fathers, and fall to keep up the traditions of the great names, but there are exceptions, and from what I hear from the other side, I am inclined to believe that young Irving will prove one

of the exceptions. Current rumor has it that Miss Ethel Barrymore is to appear with Mr. Irving. It would be a great combination, should this report prove to have foundation.

I understand a new Klein play is on the stocks, that it deals with socialism, and that Herbert Kelcey and Effie Shannon are to produce it under the management of Henry B. Harris. I trust the report is true. A play by the author of the "Music Master" and the "Lion and the Mouse" in the hands of competent artists should be worth while.

Milton Royle also is at work on a new play which he is confident will duplicate the success of "The Squaw Man." It is

*Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Edwards Price*  
request the honour of your  
presence at the marriage of their daughter,  
*Byron Fernandez*  
to  
*Mr. William Lepper Abingdon*  
on the afternoon of Tuesday, the twenty-ninth of May  
at two o'clock  
at the Calvary Baptist Church  
in the City of New York

*MISS BIJOU FERNANDEZ*  
WHOSE WEDDING TO  
WILLIAM LEPPER ABINGDON  
HAS JUST BEEN  
ANNOUNCED TO  
TAKE PLACE MAY 29TH

Hippodrome force joined with the tribe of Weber after the show, and such a time as there was can better be imagined than described. I am free to confess that my pen is not equal to the task.

Nell Burgess, the old original "Widow Bedott," may be seen once again in his portrayal of the practical, prudish, and prim old maid, Aunt Abby, which he assumes in "The County Fair," which will have a magnificent revival in the Murray Hill Theater next week. Mr. Burgess has portrayed this quaint character role for seventeen years, and he is as popular today as when this famous New England play first was produced. The scenery and effects are the same which characterized the original production, and the great race scene, with its live horses running at a terrific pace in full view of the audience, still remains one of the features.

Only a week remains of Fritz Scheff's present New York season in

"Mile. Modiste." The final performance of the prima donna's six months' engagement in the Knickerbocker will be given on Saturday evening, May 19. Following a summer vacation which Miss Scheff will spend abroad, the run of the opera will be resumed here, commencing on Monday, September 1.

The Grand Opera House is to break away from its traditions, which include changing the attraction every week, and indulge itself in quite a run. "The Clansman" has been booked for a fortnight. As an extra feature a troop of United States cavalry horses will gallop, four abreast, from one side scene to another on their way to wreak vengeance on the Ethiopian villain.

Josephine Cohan and Fred Niblo will sail for Europe on May 19. They will visit Mediterranean ports and work their exit from the Continent by way of France. They will be back in the early fall.

## Miss Bijou Fernandez to Risk Matrimony.

The coming marriage of Bijou Fernandez and W. L. Abingdon will be of wide interest to theatergoers in Washington who know Miss Fernandez through her connection with local stock companies. The wedding will take place on Tuesday, May 29, in Calvary Baptist Church, New York, and will be followed by a honeymoon trip to Europe. While abroad Mr. Abingdon will take his bride for a visit to his relatives in England. They will sail from New York on June 2 and will probably return to America early in the fall.

Miss Fernandez is one of the best known young actresses on the stage. Her last engagement was with William A. Brady's production of "The Redmen." She was associated with Amelia Bingham for several seasons and has been conspicuously identified with many celebrated productions in New York. Miss Fernandez was a member of the Edwin

Arden stock company at the old Lafayette Theater several years ago and became exceedingly popular with theatergoers. She is the daughter of Mrs. E. L. Fernandez, whose successful conduct of theatrical agencies in New York and London have stamped her as a woman of extraordinary executive ability. Miss Fernandez is a member of several well-known theatrical women's clubs in New York.

Mr. Abingdon came to this country several years ago to become a member of Amelia Bingham's company. It was during this engagement that he and Miss Fernandez met. The actor was associated with William Gillette during his first engagement in London in "Sherlock Holmes." Mr. Abingdon is extremely popular with his associates of the stage and was particularly hospitable to all American actors who visited London. He was in Washington a week ago with Charles Richman in "Gallies."



BEN GREET IN "AS YOU LIKE IT."  
SATURDAY  
OPEN AIR PERFORMANCE



PHILORA BONFANTI  
WITH RUSSELL BROS  
IN "THE GREAT  
JEWEL MYSTERY"  
ACADEMY



R.D. MACLEAN,  
GO-STAR IN  
"THE RED GARNATION"  
BELASCO



JEFFREYS LEWIS IN  
"LORD AND LADY ALICE"  
COLUMBIA  
PHOTO BY HARRIS EDWIN

## Mrs. Fiske and Edwin Markham.

Mrs. Fiske having appeared in the New York Casino San Francisco benefit, at which she played the last act of "Becky Sharp," desired to give something out of the regular dramatic line at the Metropolitan Opera House benefit, which, owing to the great number of volunteers and the time involved in a multitude of appearances necessarily would give a very short period to each participant. Her secretary was instructed to address Edwin Markham, who was asked for an original poem that she might read. Mr. Markham, who is a Californian, responded in a letter in which he said: "I should certainly be happy to do anything for Mrs. Fiske, but when her request comes weighted with the mortal need of the stricken city it becomes a royal decree. I consider it an honor to have her interpret

any lines of mine, however few." Mr. Markham later sent the poem, entitled "San Francisco Desolate," which Mrs. Fiske recited with dramatic effect at the benefit. The opening lines are as follows:  
A groan of earth in labor-pain,  
Her ancient agony and strain;  
A trembling on the granite floors,  
A heave of seas, a wrench of shores,  
A crash of walls, a moan of lips,  
A terror on the towers and ships;  
Torn streets where men and ghosts go by;  
Whirled smoke mushrooming on the sky;  
Roofs, towers, domes with one acclaim  
Turned softly to a bloom of flame,  
A mock of kingly scarlet blown  
Round shrieking timber, tottering stones;  
A thousand dreams of joy, of power  
Gone in the splendor of an hour.

## Russell Brothers' Strenuous Experience.

The Russell brothers, while they were playing in vaudeville in this city, three seasons ago, had a funny experience. For some reason, the management of the hotel at which they were stopping had discharged a couple of its domestics, and the girls were sent to their rooms to pack up and clear out. The Russell brothers' theater trunks had, in some way, gone astray, and they had to dress at the hotel, where they had another outfit exactly the same as that used on the stage. They had ordered a cab to take them to the theater, and were waiting in their rooms ready to be called. The bell boy announced the arrival of the cab. As the brothers emerged from their rooms the discharged chambermaids saw them, and thinking they were the girls hired to take their places set to work to give them a good tongue-lashing. The Russell brothers quickly grasped the situation, and saw a chance for some fun, and pretended to be the newly-hired girls. So clever was the deception that all who witnessed the

fray were led to believe that they were real women. Fun was fast and furious in that hotel. The girls, armed with brooms, chased the Russell brothers from one floor of the hotel to another. Of course, being fleet of foot, they outran their pursuers, and were hot-footing it in the direction of the office. Here another obstacle in the form of a hotel detective was in their way. He was a big, broad Irishman, and, after having halted them, demanded an explanation. Not willing to spoil the fun just yet, they led him, too, to believe they were women. The real chambermaids had caught up to them by this time, and were only by force prevented from tearing the clothes from the comedians. The manager of the hotel was let into the secret, by a friend of the comedians, and he, too, helped work up the joke. It was, indeed, a great sight to see the expression on the faces of the women and the detective when the Russell brothers took off their wigs. To this day, every time the Russell brothers play in Washington you will find these two women sitting in the front row at the Monday evening performance.